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Opening Statement for Rep. Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX) for the Committee's Field Hearing: *"Reviving Our Economy: How Career and Technical Education Can Strengthen the Workforce"* in Las Vegas, NV

Thank you, Chairman Kline, for hosting this field hearing to discuss ways in which to improve state and local delivery of career and technical education programs through the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006.

In my view, a bipartisan reauthorization of the "Perkins" Act would ensure students are equipped with the education and skills to succeed in a rapidly evolving 21st century economy.

Above all, a bipartisan reauthorization of Perkins must prioritize equity of opportunity for all public school students to participate in -- and benefit from -- career and technical education (CTE) programs.

As you know, many of our nation's DREAMERS participate in CTE programs through public secondary schools, but cannot fully utilize this education and training because their immigration status bars them from doing so.

While Congressional Democrats are committed to comprehensive immigration reform and passing the DREAM Act, the Republican majority has stalled these efforts.

Most recently, the House majority has also passed bills seeking to undermine the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, an executive order issued by President Obama that allows thousands of undocumented students to work and remain in the United States.

Today, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to listen closely to Alan Aleman's testimony, to open up their hearts and minds, and to demonstrate compassion for the thousands of hard working DREAMERS who know America as their home and are determined to contribute to our nation's economy and workforce.